Boston, 21 Cornhill, March 30/58.

Dear friend Webb—

I feel that I ought not to lose any time in communicating to you the minds of our Executive Committee on the subject of your last letter. In compliance with your request I read to them in full what you said about the Advocate. The result of the matter (in a full meeting) I have stated, as you will find, on the other sheet. I need not add my private assurance that the feeling as expressed was cordial & hearty, - and it was unanimous. It would be a real grief to some of us to have the Advocate disappear, and we know, with the assurance of those who believe in the operation of great and unchanging laws, that the very existence and presence and regular utterance of an agency or instrumentality against a flagrant wrong must have a powerful influence to check the base, to awe the evil disposed, and by bringing their evil deeds to the light to shame them before the people. We are not deceiving ourselves into thinking that the Advocate is a widely-known and an acknowledged power. We know better than that. Its power never will be acknowledged, even to the extent that it is felt; and it will be sneered at by many who really dread it. No matter for that. Truth, boldly & plainly spoken, is the mightiest engine; "Who knoweth not that Truth is strong, next the Almighty". In our cause, of all others, we cannot afford to dispense with any means of getting this truth before even a limited audience. No one can calculate how fast or how widely a great truth will spread, although at first

told to but two or three. — This is the entire secret of the progress of the Anti Slavery Cause in this country. It was indeed but as a grain of mustard seed. It now moves the entire mass. It sways legislatures and Congresses. It makes mighty parties rock and tremble. It is like a terrible Doom or Destiny hovering over Presidents and Administrations, and ever will be, until ~~the~~ Justice takes the place of all Injustice, and this monster Wrong is righted. But we are not forgetful at what cost of money, labour, & time - all given freely and largely — the little flag is kept floating in the air. And we cannot ask or urge your continuance of it, in that point of view. But we can say, we say it unanimously, we say it with all our hearts, - and it was distinctly said in our Ex Committee meeting -, that we know not how the same money, time, and effort, can be expended so effectually to help the Anti Slavery Cause in any other way.

As to the Bazaar, so far as Mrs. Chapman and her sisters are concerned, it is no more. They will do no more for it. Such is my clear conviction. But I am not prepared to take it therefore for granted that it is no more. I feel that it would be wrong for the rest of us to abandon it, simply because Mrs. Chapman can do no more for it. Unquestionably that fact should have great weight. It will have, - both with the ladies of the Bazaar Committee and with the Anti Slavery friends generally. There are two or three persons who more or less agree with Mrs. Chapman in her views of the inexpediency of the Bazaar; not more than 2 or 3, so far as I know, and I am so situated as to be likely to know what our

friends ~~generally &~~ individually think. On the other hand, with these 2 or 3 exceptions, the prevailing and very decided belief is that Mrs. Chapman's course is unwise, hazardous, & greatly to be regretted. And I do not know of a single person, amongst all our friends, who approves of her course, in undertaking to determine and decide this important question herself, and without any consultation with any of the ladies of the Committee, or with any friends of the Cause, so far as I can ascertain. Let me say, in order to do no injustice, that Mrs. C. did talk with ~~Mrs.~~ Tolles, with Mrs. Phillips, with Mr. Hovey, and with myself about it, - separately, - but it was to make known her own views and her decision, not to confer to consider, to gather up the general opinion. - I forbear saying more on this point - which I do not wish to speak of exactly by way of complaint, (though I do feel hurt that, in a cause like ours, such a thing should have been so done,) but I feel that I must give you an idea how this matter stands, and I would prefer that what I have said should not be generally spread; I have no objection to its being known by Miss Wigham, Mrs. Edmundson, & Miss Tuthin - I forbear, I say, to say more on this point, for it is not pleasant, and seems like accusing the faithful. I look upon it as rather a constitutional thing with Mrs. C. - growing out of her temperament & long relation to the cause. I am perfectly sure she meant no slight or disrespect. I doubt not she saw (or thought she saw) so clearly that the Bazaar had done all its work, and would no longer help but hinder our enterprise, that she is perfectly justified in her conclusion, so far as her own action is concerned. But she should have remembered there were some 30 other ladies, not one of whom perhaps, saw the matter as she did - certainly the vast majority of whom did not

and it was due to them, on every ground and by every consideration, to have had the whole case fully & fairly laid before them, and their opinions & their judgment taken, before any decision was made.

I therefore think that it is not to be taken for granted that the Bazaar is dead, because Mrs. Chapman says it is. I think it very probable (this is between us) that there may be before long a meeting of ladies and others to consult and agree what is best to be done. I cannot say I think it likely that they will decide to go on with the Annual Bazaar. But they may do so. I am sure, this valuable institution ought not to be abandoned suddenly or lightly. Its value to the cause - 1. pecuniarily - 2. morally and socially - has been very great. I firmly believe its power & value have not gone. I know that, to take away Mrs. Chapman and her sisters, would be like cutting off its right arm. But the maimed and mutilated body might yet be instinct with life, as much with its remaining limbs, while its will and spirit would be as good as ever. I ask myself, Why should it die? Mrs. C. has some great plan to supersede, & wholly eclipse, the Bazaar. But what it is she does not tell us, - or, gives such indistinct and uncertain glimpses, as are of little satisfa

So much I thought I would say, in consideration of what you said of Mary Estlin's plan - that the Bazaar collection should go on, as heretofore, in G. Britain and Ireland, and be sent to Phil'a. in future. I am

beg to ask that no immediate decision may be made on this point. I would ask that our friends in your islands would delay, until some distinct and final expression of the opinion of our Bazaar Committee can be had. — I know that they (our British & Irish friends) are quite ready to send their contributions here, if this be the best place; and I do not think it is as yet decided that this is not the best place.

I must leave this topic now, for I wish to touch on several others, and the minutes are few.

You will have learned that the persevering labours of the "impracticable, fanatical, and do-nothing" Abolitionists in Massachusetts, to have Edward Greeley Loring the Suffolk Judge of Probate, removed from ~~the~~ his office, because of his sending a man [Anthony Burns] into slavery, as United States Commissioner, and because of his daily and hourly violation of the laws of the State, in persisting in holding the above two offices together, — have at length been crowned with success. Two previous Legislatures had called upon Governor Gardner to remove him. Gov. Gardner had refused to do so, twice. Last autumn the people removed him from the office of Governor, and put Mr. Banks in his place. On the request of the present Legislature that Judge Loring might be removed from office, Governor Banks promptly complied. Judge Loring is removed from the office, which he held in evident defiance of the repeatedly-expressed wishes of the people and of the

re-iterated action of the Legislature, and now holds no place of trust or honour under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His place has been given to another. You will rejoice with us, I am sure, in this triumph of the Anti Slavery Sentiment and Conscience of the People of Massachusetts. It forebodes the downfall of Slavery, in other forms and manifestations. Even so. May the ~~coming of~~ Sacred Spirit of Freedom come quickly.

Garrison just comes in. I say "I am writing to R. D. W." He says, "Do tell him how heartily I feel about the Advocate – and that I think it more important now than ever".

Jas. Buffum was here just now. He says – "Give my kindest regards to him – tell him we often talk of him and that I do mean soon to write to him".

If E. Wigham be yet in Dublin, give to her my sincerest respect & regard, and that I hope soon to write to her.

By an English lady – a cousin of mine – who sails for England in the course of a fortnight or so, I forward to you 2 photographs of myself, – in compliance with a wish you long ago expressed. One is a profile, which I think the best. Others think differently. – They are neither of them considered entirely good. – Our College Class were having a set of these photographs taken. In that way, I was drawn in.

A very interesting case of a fugitive has lately occurred at Phila – a young girl effecting her escape in a box, in which she was nailed up for 26 hours. But I do not give it any publicity, as 3 or 4 persons are under arrest in Baltimore. – Farewell. –

Ever & truly Yrs. L. Mary Jr.

From the Records of the Executive Committee of the American Antislavery Soc.
March 22, 1858.

"A letter from Richard D. Webb to S. May Jr. - in which he asks the candid & unbiased judgment of the members of this Committee as to whether the Antislavery Advocate could be, most usefully to the common cause, continued, or given up and the money now used to support it sent to the treasury of the Am^{n}. Antislavery Society, - was laid before the Committee.

"There was a unanimous and decided expression, that the Advocate should by no means be discontinued, if possible to sustain it. Strong testimony was given as to its usefulness in the past, and the belief was expressed that its services were never more needed than now, when the London Times is endeavouring to reconcile the British mind to the re-opening of the African Slave Trade."

Attest - Samuel May Jr. Sec^{y}. pro. tem.

[I have no time even to read over my letter, even to supply misprints - please pardon [illegible]]

BS'D, 9 in Kislev 5611